U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

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CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of Nov. 19, 2008:

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility disposal operations resumed on Aug. 2 with 31,084 VX M23 land mines safely destroyed and 365,546 pounds of VX processed. Since disposal operations began on Aug. 9, 2003, Anniston Chemical Activity employees have emptied more than 94 storage igloos, reducing the stockpile by more than 50 percent.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 2,625 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.: Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility work force's primary decontamination and disposal efforts are on the Chemical Agent Transfer System (CHATS), which contained glove boxes where VX agent was drained from the ton containers. Workers have almost completed removal of CHATS 1.
- Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in a scheduled outage for changeover to mustard ton container disposal operations. The site continued processing Simulated Equipment Test Hardware or "mock" ton containers through the Metal Parts Furnace to test the furnace's readiness for disposal operations. Preparation and training exercises for the Integrated Operations Demonstrations (IOD) and Operational Readiness Review also continued. Actual IOD evolutions started in the upper unpack area on Nov. 17.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has completed processing VX land mines. The public comment period for a permit modification supporting processing of multi agent-contaminated waste for upcoming mustard (HD) campaign has been extended to Nov. 24. This is in order to propose modifications to the existing permit. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality extended the comment period because a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assessment of the proposed chemical agent monitoring was not available during the initial comment period.

UMCDF Destroys Last Remaining VX Nerve Agent in Oregon's Chemical Weapons Stockpile

Above: *Members of A-crew Operations pose with the last VX land mine in the UMCDF inventory before it was processed on Nov. 5. Pictured from left are: Jimmy Reynolds (process supervisor), Glenn Seibel, Jesse Adams, Rigoberto Gallegos, Nick Colborn, Kurt Petersen (area supervisor), James Pickens, Ron Webb, Tom Evans and Wendell Wrzesinski (CMA field office deputy site project manager).* ***Below:*** *M23 Landmine.*

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced the safe destruction on Nov. 5 of the last VX nerve agent-filled M23 landmine in the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) stockpile in Oregon. This marks the end of all VX-filled munitions stored at the site.

CMA's Director Conrad Whyne said, "This accomplishment demonstrates the hard work, skill and experience of the men and women that make up the Umatilla team. They have safely destroyed their nerve agent chemical weapons stockpile, reducing the storage risk to the public and bringing us yet another step closer to fulfilling our national imperative of eliminating the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile."

With the elimination of the VX by the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), CMA has safely destroyed nearly 95 percent of the original national VX agent stockpile.

"The Army said we'd do it. We did it. And we did it safely," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at UMCDF, commenting on the disposal of GB sarin and VX nerve agent that began in September 2004.

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>
> — *Mike Strong, site project manager at UMCDF*

UMCDF is in a "changeover" period to prepare the site and personnel to destroy mustard ton containers, holding approximately 2,350 tons of mustard agent. Disposal of mustard agent will be the site's final campaign. The changeover is planned to take about five months. Mustard agent destruction is expected to take one to two years to complete, barring any significant delays.

"We'll remain fully committed to safety as we prepare to dispose of the mustard ton containers," said Strong.

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TOCDF Surpasses Six Million Safe Man-Hours while UMCDF Surpasses Four Million Safe Man-Hours

Workers at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) and the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) surpassed milestones of six million and four million consecutive man-hours respectively without a lost workday injury. TOCDF reached their milestone on Friday, Nov. 7, and UMCDF reached their milestone the next day.

TOCDF's Six Million Safe Man-Hours

TOCDF's most recent accomplishment is a reflection of its workers' focus on safety.

"Safety is our top priority," said Col. Gerald L. Gladney, Commander of Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), where the chemical weapons are stored. "We always strive to put safety first—both the safety of our workers and the safety of the environment."

Nearly 1,000 employees at TOCDF are safely destroying the chemical weapons stored at DCD, the Army's single largest stockpile. TOCDF is operated by the Army's systems contractor, EG&G Defense Materials, Inc.

EG&G Vice President and General Manager Gary McCloskey congratulated workers, noting it was the first time in the project's history they had reached six million safe man-hours. "Our workers have been working safely without a single lost workday injury for more than three years. Very few industrial plants in the world have achieved this level of safety performance, let alone one with such a challenging and high-hazard mission," McCloskey said.

Since beginning demilitarization operations in 1996, more than one million chemical weapons have been destroyed along with nearly 10,000 tons of chemical agent.

UMCDF's Four Million Safe Man-Hours

UMCDF's reaching four million safe man-hours showcases their dedication to safely eliminating their stockpile.

"Reaching this milestone is a testament to the dedication of each and every employee here at UMCDF and all of our subcontractors to work safely," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for the Washington Defense Group of URS-EG&G Division, which built and operates the incineration plant for the Army.

Hamrick told the more than 800 employees at UMCDF that "each difficult task that you foresee the hazards to avoid, each entry you make [into the Munitions Demilitarization Building] with vigilance, each time you slow down to walk across icy spots, each time you stop to get the correct personal protective equipment, you are contributing to the safety culture here. Each and every member of Team Umatilla is responsible for this achievement."

This is the first time in the project's history that UMCDF has surpassed four million safe man-hours. It is equivalent to an individual working 1,923 years without missing a day of work due to injury.

UMCDF also received the Star Status in the Voluntary Protection Program from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 2006. This award is the highest safety honor bestowed by the federal government.

Study at DCD to Determine Risk from Solid Waste Management Unit

While the Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) chemical weapons storage and destruction missions are drawing closer to an end, environmental cleanup, remediation and planning for future use of the land—efforts that have been in the background for many years—are receiving increased emphasis.

One project under way is the Phase II Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study to describe risk from one of the Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) in an undeveloped location in the depot. The site, located in a fenced non-operational portion of DCD, was used to destroy and dispose of explosive and chemical munitions from 1945 to 1978.

Environmental remediation contractors who were mapping the area and collecting soil samples in the 373-acre SWMU have found a variety of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and chemical agent identification sets (CAIS). The Army used CAIS from 1928 to 1969 to train soldiers in the safe handling, identification and decontamination of chemical warfare agents. The CAIS were produced in large quantities and many sets have been discovered in storage and at burial sites across the United States.

Personnel from Ft. Carson's 764th EOD team evaluated the UXO then destroyed the non liquid items through open detonation. The remaining items were over packed and placed into a storage igloo to await further assessment by technicians from CMA's Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel.

Environmental teams will prepare a corrective measures study once the analysis of the soil samples and pit mapping survey are completed. The results of the study will help the depot develop institutional controls, measures and remediation that will protect wildlife living in the area.

Operation Swift Solution Underway at BGAD

On Nov. 12, teams involved in Operation Swift Solution at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) near Richmond, Ky., began destruction operations involving three ton containers and their contents that consist of a mixture of GB nerve agent and its breakdown products.

The U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) is responsible under the Department of Defense for destruction of the BGAD chemical weapons stockpile. The operation is being coordinated with the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection and local stakeholders.

"I'm pleased that progress is being made to eliminate these ton containers," said Lt. Col. David Musgrave, BGCA commander. "We conducted a thorough readiness review prior to start up and it's clear that all of our preparatory work is paying off and ensuring that Operation Swift Solution is conducted safely."

BGCA personnel were responsible for preparation and improvement of the Operation Swift Solution site, movement of the containers from the storage igloo to the operations structure, and emergency preparedness planning and coordination, among other supporting activities.

GB, also known as sarin, is an odorless liquid with a consistency similar to water. The sarin was originally stored in one steel ton container in a storage igloo beginning in the mid-1980s. In 2004 portions of the sarin were transferred to two other containers before the chemical and the decontaminants began to corrode the bolts of the original container.

To complete destruction operations, a trained team from ECBC deployed to BGAD from Maryland with the Chemical Agent Transfer System, known as CHATS, to destroy the contents of the steel containers. CHATS is used to drain and neutralize the contents of the containers, which will then be decontaminated and recycled. The contents of the containers will be processed in batches with about a gallon at a time. Each batch will take two hours to neutralize.

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